

Regular Session, 2005

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 17

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Sergeant Rene Knox, Jr.

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of United States Army Sergeant Rene Knox, Jr., upon his death in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WHEREAS, it is with the deepest regret and most profound sorrow that the Senate has learned of the tragic death of Sergeant Knox in the Iraqi Theater of Operations; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Knox was a native of New Orleans and graduated from the Alfred Lawless High School where he was a member of the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps and was known by his unit commander there as "a natural born leader" who never questioned his superiors and, instead, always tried to work a problem out for himself; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Knox followed in the footsteps of his father, Rene Knox, Sr., who only recently returned to the United States after serving a tour of duty with the Army in Iraq last year; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Knox had always wanted to serve his country in the armed services and after high school he had enlisted in the Army, spending a year stationed in South Korea; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Knox returned to the United States and was assigned to Fort Stewart, Georgia, with the Army's 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry, 3rd Infantry Division which was

1 subsequently deployed to Iraq; and

2 WHEREAS, Sergeant Knox and his men soon found themselves in Balad, a dusty,
3 desert town north of Baghdad that was considered a hotspot of Baathist Party supporters and
4 Saddam-regime loyalists determined to destroy the men of Sergeant Knox's unit as well as
5 the men of the 4th Infantry Division who also operated in the area; and

6 WHEREAS, Sergeant Knox was only 22 years old when he and two other men from
7 his unit were given a mounted patrol mission on February 13, 2005, to search for terrorist
8 elements reported to be operating in the area; and

9 WHEREAS, it was during the course of that mission that Sergeant Knox and his two
10 comrades were involved in a incident in which the vehicle they were riding left the road and
11 overturned in a canal where all three men died; and

12 WHEREAS, there was an investigation of the event to determine whether enemy
13 action contributed to the tragic deaths of Sergeant Knox and his two comrades and the final
14 details of the event may never be known; and

15 WHEREAS, the loss of Sergeant Knox and his fellow soldiers was almost more than
16 his family and friends could endure, their ultimate sacrifice for their country only served to
17 reinforce the resolve of the men of his unit to successfully complete their mission of bringing
18 freedom to Iraq; and

19 WHEREAS, Sergeant Knox will forever be remembered by his family, friends, and
20 fellow soldiers as a dedicated soldier and his death serves as a reminder that freedom is
21 never free and Americans may have to fight to protect the freedoms and liberties it citizens
22 now enjoy.

23 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
24 does hereby express a profound sense of loss and sends its heartfelt condolences from a
25 grateful state and nation to the family of United States Army Sergeant Rene Knox, Jr., for
26 fighting America's enemies in a faraway land.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
28 family of Sergeant Rene Knox, Jr.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

DIGEST

Expresses condolences upon the death of U.S. Army Sergeant Rene Knox, Jr.